REMARKS

I.   Introduction

Claims 1-18, 48-63, and 84-87 are pending in the present application. In the April 6, 2007, Office Action (herein "Office Action"), Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-15, 17, 18, 48-54, 57-61, 63, and 84-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by "DragThing." Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DragThing.

Applicants note that the Examiner used three separate references to describe the alleged function of the DragThing (hereinafter "DragThing") software application available at the time of filing. Applicants will continue to reference the three separate references as the Examiner has named them within the Office Action. Applicants will only evaluate the DragThing software application as set forth in the cited responses. Thus, a DragThing Review from Applelinks will continue to be referred to as "Apple." The about information from the DragThing Web site using web.archive.org will continue to be referenced as "DT1." Further, the version history of DragThing from version 1.0 – 4.3 located on the main Web site of DragThing will be referred to as "DT2."

II.   Claim Rejections

A.   The Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-15, 17, 18, 48-54, 57-61, 63, and 84-87 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 1 recites as follows:

> 1.   In a computer system including a display and at least two software applications, wherein the software applications are represented as graphical windows in a first portion of the display and as graphic controls on a second portion of the display when the software applications are instantiated on the computer system, a method for managing the at least two software applications comprising:
>
> obtaining an indication to organize a first graphic control corresponding to a first instantiated software application and a second

graphic control corresponding to a second instantiated software application;

grouping the first and second graphic controls on the second portion of the display; and

automatically displaying the first and second graphic controls as a group within the second portion of the display.

The DragThing reference fails to disclose the elements of Claim 1. DragThing is limited to a software tool for organizing desktop objects within "a dock."" See Apple, page 1, ¶¶ 1-3. The dock of DragThing is purportedly a software tool for organizing applications, folders and documents. See Apple, page 1, paragraph 1. The DragThing reference does not clearly define how the DragThing software functions. Assuming, arguendo, that it is as depicted in Figure 1, with icons associated with shortcuts to instantiate an application, then DragThing clearly would not teach Claim 1. Icons associated with shortcuts to instantiate an application are not the same as graphic controls corresponding directly to instantiated software applications.

In addition, DragThing states "there is also an option to display currently running processes in a special dock." Thus, a user would only receive this functionality upon request. Further, it would be displayed in a separate, "special dock" which could result in more clutter on a display. Still further, there is no mention in DragThing of graphic controls corresponding to these running processes.

In direct contrast, Claim 1 is directed toward the management of graphic controls that correspond to instantiated software applications as a group. Specifically, Claim 1 recites "obtaining an indication to organize a first graphic control corresponding to a first instantiated software application and a second graphic control corresponding to a second instantiated software application," "grouping the first and second graphic controls on the second portion of the display," and "automatically displaying the first and second graphic controls as a group within the second portion of the display." DragThing is limited to organization of icons used to
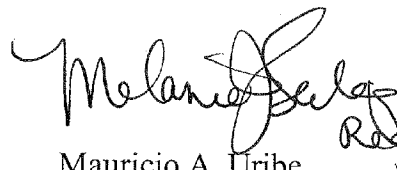
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instantiate an application not grouping controls related to an instantiated application. DragThing fails to teach or suggest all the elements of Claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Independent Claims 48 and 84 recite, in relevant portions, substantially the same features discussed above with respect to Independent Claim 1. Therefore Claims 48 and 84 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 2-18, 49-63, and 85-87 depend from Claims 1, 48, and 84 respectively and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to Claims 1, 48, and 84. Claims 2-18, 49-63, and 85-87 also add to the patentability of the application. Claim 6 adds saving data within the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second graphic controls. Claim 8 adds monitoring the frequency of manipulation of the first and second graphic controls. Claim 15 adds a project control for toggling software applications. Careful review of DragThing reveals that such features are not mentioned or covered by any aspect of the reference. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections with regard to Claims 2-18, 49-63, and 85-87 and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^PLLC

Mauricio A. Uribe
Registration No. 46,206
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1728

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